

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

In the clearest and plainest of English President Cleveland has made his suggestions to congress.

The message, read in both houses simultaneously on Tuesday, is not only the first message sent by President Cleveland to congress, but it is the first that has emanated from a Democratic Executive in a quarter of a century.

Of all the messages of late years not one was so looked forward to or so carefully scanned when it made its appearance.

Not less anxiety was manifested by those who bitterly opposed the president, as to what it would contain, than by those who were during the contest and are now staunchly his friends.

To those who thus opposed him it reveals President Cleveland as a wise and prudent statesman, and to those who were and are his friends it is but a confirmation of their wisdom in supporting him.

It shows him to be as purely a business man in public affairs as he is in the conduct of his own private interests, and that in discharging the duties of his office he is not laying aside all business rules and principles to indulge in vagaries and theorizing.

Every line and every word in the message but strengthens the belief that with him "public office is a public trust," held for the benefit of the people and not for purposes of private gain and personal ends. It is thoroughly illustrative of his integrity of character and strength of purpose to so administer the affairs of government as to have all the people benefitted by its proper conduct and not a favored few.

By this message the President has completely allayed all fears that may have been honestly entertained by the business interests of the country and completely refuted those who wickedly taught that a change in administration meant ruin to the commercial affairs of the country. In all its parts the message is wise and conservative—determined in the suggestion of needed reforms but counseling the wisdom of moderation in bringing them about.

The parts of the message that have attracted the most attention and called forth the greatest comment are those devoted to the "Tariff," the "Silver" question, the "Mormon" question and "Civil Service."

Whilst we would have preferred to have had the president more explicit upon the subject of tariff reform, yet we are content as the president's utterances in his message taken in connection with those contained in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, show a determination on his part to bring about if possible a reduction in the amount of excess of revenue annually accumulated from our false and illy-adjusted tariff system.

Upon this subject the president says that "the fact that our revenues are in excess of the actual needs of an economical administration of the government justifies a reduction in the amount exacted from the people for its support," and that government "is never better administered and its true spirit is never better observed than when the peoples' taxation for its support is scrupulously limited to the actual necessity of expenditures and distributed according to a just and equitable plan."

His remedy is to reduce "the revenues derived from a tax upon imported necessities of life," and "thus directly lessen the cost of living in every family in the land, and release to the public in every family in the land, and in every humble home a larger measure of the rewards of frugal industry."

Upon the subject of the suspension of a further coinage of "silver" dollars, the message is very explicit and is in accord with the sentiments expressed in the Warner letter of February. The reasons given by the president fully justify him in advising such suspension. The continued and compulsory coinage of silver without either the means or the disposition to circulate it must inevitably bring financial disaster upon us. The fact that it has not already created a marked financial disturbance he says has resulted from good fortune and not because no harm can be wrought by unlimited and continued coinage. As the president very tersely says:

We have now on hand all the silver dollars necessary to supply the present needs of the people, and to satisfy those who from sentiment wish to see them in circulation, and if their coinage is suspended they can be readily obtained by all who desire them. If the need of more is at any time apparent their coinage may be renewed. That disaster has not already overtaken us furnished no proof that danger does not wait upon a continuation of the present silver coinage. We have been saved by the most careful management and unusual expedients, by a combination of fortunate conditions and by a confident expectation that the commerce of the government in regard to silver coinage would be speedily changed by an action of congress. Prosperity hesitates upon our threshold because of dangers and uncertainties surrounding this question. Capital timidly shrinks from trade, and investors are unwilling to take the chance of the question-able shape in which their money will be returned to them, while enterprise waits at a risk against which care and sagacious management do not protect. As a necessary consequence labor lacks employment and suffering and distress are visited upon a portion of our fellow-citizens especially entitled to the careful consideration of those charged with the duties of legislation. No interest appeals to us so strongly for a safe and stable currency as the vast army of the unemployed.

The democratic party cannot afford to assume any wavering financial policy. In the past it has suffered much from the vagaries of demagogism, and in this matter it must listen to the dictates of business principles and of sound judgment, and not be led off

by the theories of an empty sentimentalism. The vigorous treatment of the "Mormon" question is in line with that commenced during the last year of President Arthur's term, and carries out to their limit the statement made by the president when he was called upon by the Mormon delegation that the law relative to polygamy should and must be enforced.

We trust that congress will act on the suggestion made "that a law be passed to prevent the importation of Mormons into this country. With such a law enacted and vigorously enforced the "Mormon" problem would not be so difficult of solution.

Despite the criticism that has been passed upon the president by many within the ranks of his own party, for his belief in Civil Service Reform, and the sneering remarks of those openly opposed to him, he is as tenacious of his faith in it as on the day of his inauguration, and speaking doubtless from his personal experience with the office seeking class since his induction into the presidential office and his coming to know how offices had heretofore been dispensed, he says: "Civil service reform came none too soon to check the progress of political demoralization."

No subject appeals so earnestly to the supporters of President Cleveland as does this subject of civil service. That he is right in the position assumed by him all must know. His position is but the result and the logical outcome of a proper conception of the conduct of the government—a belief in the truth that as many as exacting rules of business should be applied to the transaction of affairs of state as in the conduct of individual matters.

"Civil service reform" is a teaching that appeals to the patriotism of the citizen. It does not destroy proper partisanship—it is destructive simply of a narrow personal greed for office—an evil so fast taking hold upon our people as to make it an imperative duty on the part of all good citizens, irrespective of party affiliations, to aid the president in his determination to root it out.

The seeking and holding of an office for the good of the public service is right and proper, but the securing of it simply to prostitute it to party ends is an evil, and nothing but an evil.

To all our readers we commend for their careful reading President Cleveland's first annual message.

FOR LIFE OR DEATH.

The Trial of Peter A. West for the Murder of Thos. B. Parks Occupies the Attention of the Court this Week.

ANOTHER NOTABLE MURDER TRIAL.

WEST'S MASCOT.

Not since the celebrated trial of William Russell has the criminal court of this county attracted so much attention as during the past week, when Peter West, of Streator, was brought before the bar to answer for the death of Thomas Parks, of Benson. The Russell case was one sufficient to sicken the stoutest heart with its revolting horrors. It was one of the foulest crimes that ever covered with the blood of its victim the fair name of any county in this state. On May 6, 1878, little Maggie Cuddy, a child scarcely nine years of age, left her home near Utica to go to a neighbor's for a kitten. That was the last seen of her alive. Two weeks after her body was found in a ravine near the tunnel on the Rock Island road. On the body was found a stone weighing 300 pounds and another weighing 75. There were unmistakable evidences that the child had been ravished. Walsh, a young man who was subsequently arrested, but afterwards liberated, testified that "she was alive and kicking when they put her under the water" and rolled the huge stones on her little body. The trial began on Oct. 28 of the same year, and on Nov. 9 following a verdict was brought in by the jury of "Not guilty." That William Russell committed this worse than murderous deed, for which poor little Maggie Cuddy suffered a horrible death, and for which her blood still cries aloud to heaven for vengeance, those familiar with the history of that remarkable trial and acquittal firmly believe, and will until time shall be no more. In that case a sense of outraged justice was given expression in the verdict of acquittal. There is but little or no parallel, however, between these cases. In the trial of Russell there were no mitigating circumstances as in that of West, which began on Monday. In both of these cases James W. Duncan and E. F. Bull figured conspicuously as leading counsel for the defense, materially aided in this instance by the fine Italian hand of Geo. W. Blake, who has of late years acquired a reputation as one of the ablest criminal lawyers at the Ottawa bar.

It will be remembered that on Friday afternoon, Oct. 9, between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock, the shooting of Thomas B. Parks occurred, in room 43 of the Plumb House, Streator. The bullet took effect in his left thigh, severing the femoral artery. After enduring several surgical operations, one of them, the last, the amputation of the leg, and suffering untold agonies for three weeks, he died Sunday, Nov. 1, at a quarter past 5 in the morning. As he was dying he made a solemn protestation of his innocence of the charge of undue intimacy between Mrs. West and himself.

In addition to the regular panel, a special venire of 50 jurors had been called, who were all on hand Monday noon, and the work of impaneling a jury was begun at 2 o'clock. Previous to that every available seat in the Circuit Court room was occupied by an eager crowd; the inclosure was almost filled up with attorneys and those interested in the case as witnesses. A half an hour after the opening of court, presided over by

Judge Blanchard, Peter West, the defendant, was brought in by the deputy sheriffs. He wore a light blue overcoat of broadcloth, of the Prince Albert style; his hair was closely cut, and his general appearance was that of much care and study as to his toilet. Soon afterwards he arose and followed his attorneys, Jas. W. Duncan, Geo. W. Blake, E. F. Bull and Clarence Griggs, to the jury room for consultation. The prosecution had for the interests of the people, along with State's Attorney Moloney, Henry Mayo, and A. P. Wright, of Streator. Near these gentlemen sat the brothers of the dead man, J. B. and A. P. Parks, both of Ottawa, Kansas. The former is a dealer in lands and live stock, and the latter is an agent for a firm in Burlington, Iowa. Another brother, James, is a resident of Joliet, but he was not present. At the adjournment of court the first day four jurors had been obtained. A short time previous to the adjournment the prosecuting attorney arose and said that he wished to make a statement; he wanted to know if a man named Lee, of Streator, was in the court. Lee was thereupon brought before the judge, when Mr. Moloney made the following statement: "I have been told that this man on last Saturday stayed in Forbes' store, in the presence of bystanders, that he had been summoned as a member of the special jury, and that if selected as a juror he would remain out forever before he brought in a verdict of guilty. He stated that he would see the other jurors, and that Mr. Duncan wanted him on the jury and Moloney did not. Such a man, your Honor, should be severely reprimanded." The attorney here read an affidavit from Marshal Maher, who was present when Lee made the remarks in Forbes' store. The attorneys here got mixed up in an altercation in regard to the matter, which was promptly quelled by Judge Blanchard, who remarked that he did not want any wrangling. Lee was permitted to be heard and made a rambling sort of a statement, in which he said that he had taken some liquor and didn't know what he was saying at the time. After which he was told to be more careful in the future, and to keep a better guard over his actions and tongue.

Second Day.

Among the strangers in attendance Tuesday morning when court opened was Mrs. Parks, wife of the murdered man, who was accompanied by her daughter, aged about 12 years. She was dressed in deep mourning, and her face bore the impression of much suffering. A handsome little blonde of perhaps 16 came and took a seat inside the railing, having in charge Peter West's little "Mascot," a pretty black-eyed little girl of four or five, whom Peter fondled and caressed apparently with much paternal affection. There was John Fornof, of the Streator Free Press, with his sharp, clean shaven face and pointed nose, noting the proceedings; Ed. Nattinger, of the Times, sat at the reporter's table with the dignity of a judge on the bench, and when he went out betimes to Mitch's or Wash Hines', he would call Summer Cullen or Dan Trainer to take notes for him; there was the intellectual Teuton of the Herald, Zwanzig, who never wore a necktie, and whose blonde, frowsy hair stood out from his head in all directions as though he had just got up; Beemus Armstrong, doing reportorial work for the Streator Times, was there in all his glory, the nestor of Ottawa newspaper representatives; McCabe, of the Journal, spent two or three hours each day, went to his loft and let loose his imagination, which frequently ran riot amid the facts in the case. The Republican, Globe and Wochenblatt were absent, but a second-hand account of the case, furnished them from the other papers by means of the shears, satisfied these enterprising fellows. By the time for adjourning court Tuesday evening twelve jurors were secured, whose names are as follows: Samuel Patterson, Vemillion, farmer; August Bruell, Jr., Earl, farmer; Geo. Westgate, Ophir, farmer; Geo. Flory, Wallace, farmer; Geo. S. Signor, Earl, stockman; Nelson Davis, Dayton, carpenter; T. J. Moore, Fall River, farmer; Dan. C. O'Kane, Ottawa, clerk; Peter Bernard, Ottawa, glass worker; David Wylie, Ophir, farmer; D. H. Knight, Adams, farmer, and Michael McCauley, Groveland, carpenter. This body was carefully selected by Messrs. Moloney and Bull for their respective sides of the case. It is not composed of any saloon keepers and only in a few instances are there any cleroh members. They are an intelligent looking body of men and fully realize the peculiar and responsible position in which they are placed—one which they will never be likely to forget—for into their hands is entrusted the life of a human being charged with one of the highest crimes known to the laws.

Third Day.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the sheriff's gavel restored order in the court room and the third day of the murder trial was commenced. West, the defendant, was brought in handcuffed by two stout strapping deputies, and though the law pronounced him innocent until he is proven guilty, yet it permits a person to be frequently treated as a public exhibition of a criminal, as though he were a condemned criminal. Mr. Bull called the attention of the sheriff to this fact and a worthy altercation ensued. It was noted, however, that when the prisoner was returned to the jail for his dinner that the handcuffs were not used. The opening statement was made by Mr. Moloney on the part of the prosecution and occupied about an hour's time. He outlined the facts in connection with the shooting as he understood them, and painted the character of the defendant West in very black colors. It would be shown, he said, that it was a deliberate murder and appealed to the jury to not permit themselves to be swayed by Mr. Duncan's eloquence.

After the conclusion of Moloney's opening statement the jury retired, and Mr. Bull arose and stated that he desired to make a motion to the effect that Luther Ladlin Mills, who had been engaged by the prosecution and who was present in court to assist the prosecuting attorney, be excluded from so doing. He cited numerous authorities, and after reading copiously from law books the court cut him off by stating that he believed the counsel for the prosecution were abundantly able to proceed with the trial. He had no recollection of such a point being ever before raised during his practice at the bar. That, as Mr. Mills was not present when the jury was empaneled, no other counsel would be permitted to come in and take part in the case. In a conversation with a representative of this paper Mr. Mills said that it was legal to debar him from taking part in the trial. Moloney said that hereafter no counsel would be allowed by him to take part in any case in which he represented the people. There was considerable feeling over the exclusion of Mr. Mills, but he did not take it as a discourtesy, knowing that if he was permitted to engage in the case it could be sent back for a new trial should the defendant be convicted. A. S. Trade, of Chicago, who was originally retained, was unable to be present on account of sickness, and Mr. Mills was engaged in his place, but his coming in so late into the case ruled him out.

Senator Duncan then stepped forward and took his position before the jury to outline the case for the defense. He spoke in his

usual forcible and highly eloquent manner, and said to the jury that his understanding of the case was that they should either hang West or let him go free. He spoke of the great responsibilities of the jury, after which he gave a personal history of the defendant. West, he said, was born on a farm near Metamora, in Woodford county, and was 38 years of age. His parents were Germans, and came to this country a few years before he was born. He worked on the farm until he was 16 years of age, and for three years after he worked out as a farm laborer. He then rented a farm in Iroquois county. The prosecution said he was a man of means, such was not the case. He was obliged to spend all that he could scrape together to pay his doctor bills. He lived at Benson a short time. In '76 he came to Streator and started a restaurant with his brother, which he ran until last April. In the spring of 1880 he went to California for his health accompanied by his wife. It was through some business transaction that he became acquainted with Parks. His brother John, who had embarked in business at Benson, in the hope that the place would some day be a thriving city, got into debt, and his sister Barbara applied to Peter West for a loan of \$500. Did not get it. Applied to Parks, and when the note became due he paid it and held a mortgage on his brother's property at Benson. On the 4th day of June last West started for Europe. In June 3 Parks came to Selby, Ohio, and on June 2 Parks came to West's home and remained all night. Both Parks and Mrs. West occupied the same room that night. She usually slept in a room down stairs with the children, the hired girl up stairs. That night, however, she ordered the girl to sleep with the children down stairs. The next day at the depot Parks met Mrs. West but did not recognize her. They took the same train for Chicago, with the nurse girl and children, and registered at the Sherman House. Mrs. West sent the children and girl to the parlor, and the door of Mrs. West's room was locked, and both Parks and herself remained there for some time. The time of Sells Bros' circus at Streator, some two weeks afterwards, Parks was in Streator and stayed three nights with Mrs. West in the upstairs bedroom, the door of which was locked. During the time of the Reunion Parks attended the theatre with Mrs. West. Mr. Duncan said that if he did not establish beyond any question the fact that Parks was a whitened sepulchre of crime, a criminal leper, a plouter of homes and of woman's honor, he asked the jury that if might cost Peter West his neck. September 26 Parks wrote a letter to E. C. Marsh signed "Emma," which would be produced later on. Once West said to Parks: "Every time you come to my house my wife acts so queer after you are gone. I wish that you would not come." When Parks wrote to Mrs. West he sent two letters. One was directed to Mrs. West and simply said, "I mailed a letter to-day to Miss Nellie; see that she gets it." The letter referred to—the second one—was always addressed, "Miss Nellie Moyné." One of the letters addressed to Mrs. West was opened by her husband who went to the post office and said to the clerk: "Have you a letter for Miss Nellie—I forgot the name?" The clerk at once said, "Is it Nellie Moyné?" "Yes," said West, and by that means he became possessed of the clue to this illicit correspondence between her and Parks. The next day after getting this letter he telegraphed Parks to come to Streator, but Parks answered that it was impossible. Mrs. West in the meantime telegraphed Parks to come on and that she would meet him at Reading, a few miles from Streator. As the rest of Mr. Duncan's opening statement will be learned from the testimony of Mr. Newell, who accompanied Parks to Reading where they were met by Mrs. West, it is not necessary to give it here. Mr. Duncan had not finished his statement at the noon hour, and at the opening of court at 1:30 p. m. he again took the floor and spoke for an hour. He took occasion to state that on Sunday morning, the day the coroner's inquest was held, Dr. Minor, who had charge of the case, went around the city to consult with other physicians as to a line of swearing which they should pursue when called to testify before the jury. He handled the Streator doctors without gloves and declared that their methods of surgery, as evidenced by their treatment of Parks was against all known laws of the science. Mr. Duncan's opening speech was replete with masterly invective and scathing and eloquence, and was attentively listened to by a crowded court room of spectators. Mr. Mills, who was present, said that it was the finest opening statement he had ever heard.

L. M. NEWELL.

About 3 o'clock L. M. Newell, of Minonk, was called as the first witness and promptly took the stand. He stated that he was a lawyer and was now prosecuting attorney of Woodford county, and a resident of Minonk for the past 20 years. Knew Parks and West. Got acquainted with West some 15 years ago. Knew Parks 10 years—perhaps longer. He lived about a mile and a half from Benson. Was a grain and stock dealer. Have done legal business for him. Saw him Oct. 9. Parks telegraphed me to go to Reading with him. Left Minonk with him about noon of that day. When we got to Reading, looked around the station to see if there was anyone there to meet us. Saw a carriage driver around slowly, and remarked to Parks that the person we desired to see was in it. Coming up to the carriage Parks introduced me to Mrs. West. Got in after a while, and Parks took the lines and drove to Streator. When we got there Mrs. West directed him to the Plumb House. After dinner Reeves, Murdock and West came to the hotel. In the parlor Reeves proposed that we should take the business in the hotel, and had engaged room 43. It was a large room, separated by a double or folding door. I sat on the lounge. Parks sat in one corner, Reeves by the grate and Mrs. West sat in another corner of the room. West sat in front of the folding door. I told Reeves we were there about the Benson property matter. Parks said that he was willing to deed the property mortgaged to him to any one Mrs. West should designate. There was a momentary lull in the conversation after the matter had been settled, and Mr. Reeves made the remark that there was another matter to be settled. There were improper relations existing between Mrs. West and Parks, and if the latter could explain some circumstances all would be well. Parks said that he would make an explanation if West would believe him, otherwise it would be useless. Reeves insisted on standing up and I requested that he take his seat, which he did. West asked Parks if he was at his house Wednesday, and what time he left the house. Parks said that West said he did not believe it. West made the remark, "I told him better than that," and mark, "You stayed upstairs." Parks denied going up. West sprang to his feet and drew a revolver, and we all jumped up. Murdock and Reeves got hold of West. I heard him say, "I'll shoot the son of a—" when the shot was fired. Told Parks to run. He opened the door and started to the right and

Pete to the left in the corridor. Called for the police. Murdock came down the other stairway; asked him where Parks was. Was told that he was shot. I rushed up and found Parks lying on his back in a comatose condition. While in the corridor I heard the second report of a pistol. Parks had no weapon to my knowledge. The blood had spurted on the floor and wall of the corridor and room in a few places. Going out of the room I picked up a bullet lying on the carpet, and also found the mark of a bullet by the door. I found another bullet under the lounge. (The bullets were here produced by the witness.) Found the mark of a bullet on the back of the lounge. Met West in the hallway and asked him what he did that for—thought you were making an attempt on me as well as Parks. He said he had none but the most friendly feelings for me. The shooting took place about 3 o'clock p. m. of Oct. 9. Murdock, Reeves, West and myself met in the parlor at 9 o'clock that evening. Reeves talked concerning the matter and asked me to go to Parks in regard to the case and endeavor to have the prosecution stopped. West said that he was now satisfied that no improper relations existed between Parks and his wife. Mr. Parks said that it was a serious case, and that he did not feel like having the matter settled; he was not willing, but would talk the matter over in the morning. Saw him next day and he thought the matter should be fully investigated. On the cross-examination by Bull witness stated that it was Mrs. West they expected to meet at Reading. Parks told me so. When we went there I understood that my presence was not desired and withdrew to one side while they (Parks and Mrs. West) conversed about 15 minutes. Got in the rig, a single seated one-horse buggy. The conversation was principally about the letter. After an hour and a half in the box, the first witness was told to step aside.

Newell, being recalled by the defense, stated that Mrs. West said coming up in the buggy, "I think Pete has got that letter." Moloney asked, What was said about Hannah Johnson? Mrs. West talked a good deal about a girl she called Hannah. Bull here objected, and was sustained by the court.

WALTER REEVES.

The above witness took the stand at 4:30. He stated that he had been a resident of Streator for the past 10 years. Went with West in company with Mr. Murdock to the Plumb House Feb. 9, about 2 in the afternoon. Met Mrs. West at the entrance. She said, "Peter, you had better get all the lawyers in town." Was introduced to Newell by Parks at the time. Mrs. West asked if there was no room in which they could meet and consult. Offered them the use of my office. Subsequently went up to room 43 in the Plumb House. After we entered the room think I remarked, "Well, what are we here for?" addressing inquiry to Mr. Newell. Mr. Newell said they were present in answer to a telegram from West, and were ready to hear what was wanted. I said that there was a business matter between West and Parks, and that West was on his way to Benson when he was called back. The matter concerning the deed of the property was then spoken of. Newell then stated that there was something else, and called attention to the jealousy of West against Parks. I stated that Mr. Murdock and myself had nothing to say on that subject. Newell said that they had nothing to say except to enter a general denial of the matter. Murdock, West and myself retired for a few minutes' conversation. (Came back, and I stated that there was a certain matter which if Mr. Parks could satisfactorily explain a settlement would be had. West had asked Parks some time before if he had been to see the family lately. Parks said that he had not, but said in such a manner that West felt there was something wrong. The next day he had asked Mrs. West if Parks had been there; Mrs. West replied that he had. Parks then said that there was no use in his making a statement unless West believed him. To which West replied that he would if the truth was given. Parks said, "When I met you on the train I did not want to say anything to excite your jealousy." (Here Mr. Reeves described the positions of the occupants of the room.) West arose, and I said, "Sit down, Pete." He did so. He had his hat in his hand. He asked Parks what time he was at his house, and was answered that it was about 8 o'clock or thereabouts. West asked him how long he stayed, and was told until nine or half past. "Didn't you stay longer?" Parks said, "Well, I don't know; I have been always kindly treated at your house and have always been asked to remain for meals." West then in a loud tone of voice said, "Weren't you up stairs with her? You have taken advantage of my wife," and pulled out his revolver. I caught him by the wrist; Murdock also caught him, and we commanded him to put up the revolver. We struggled with him and pushed him back to the double door. All this time he was struggling and muttering "He took advantage of my wife!" In the course of the struggle he held the revolver in his right hand, which was raised above his head. After which we let him go. In the hallway I saw West, and he raised his arm as though to shoot a second time when he saw Parks. Murdock and I then went to him and pushed him into a room, where we disarmed him. Murdock went to where Parks was lying and turned him over. He was in a fainting condition. A few moments later other parties came in, and we picked up the wounded man and brought him to a window for air. Looking out I saw Dr. Minor and called him; he came. Parks raised himself up and told us to put the crowd out of the room. There was blood on the wall outside the room and on the carpet. (Judge Blanchard here said that the members of the jury called for reading matter, and ordered the sheriff to be very careful not to furnish them any of the local papers. He said that one of the jurors manifested a desire to read the President's Message, and no doubt was furnished it.) On the re-direct examination Mr. Reeves stated that he saw West in various parts of the house that evening; saw West and his wife and Newell and Murdock in the parlor that evening. They were there when I left. Went to the office of the justice of the peace party in the home. "Did any one of the party in the parlor send a message to Parks that night?" (Bull objected to the question, but the court overruled him.) Did not know of any such message. Yes, Peter West went to Parks' room the parlor and I told him not to go away. West was gone some time. I went to Parks' room, pushed the door open slightly and saw West there. By Duncan: "You know that West had been sent for on three or four occasions?" "I only know what was told me." About 8 o'clock went to West's house; found that he was at the Streator House. Went there with Newell. Was then informed that Parks had sent a message to West. Saw West and his wife, and they said Parks desired more time as to what he was going to do about the prosecution. There were various messages passing between them as to whether the prosecution would go on or not. Newell stated as Parks' attorney. Told Newell that he had. Said Duncan: "Did you go to see Parks and get a definite answer. He went, and returning told me that his client was not feeling well enough to talk on the subject, but that on the next day he would

let me know as to what would be done. Told Newell that there was more in the matter than he was aware of.

Fourth Day.

The concluding portion of Mr. Reeves' testimony, as given above, occupied part of the forenoon of Thursday. The court room was again densely packed, especially in the afternoon, when there were fully 100 persons inside the inclosure. Wednesday West's little girl, the mascot of the great murder trial, was present with her nurse. She ran about from seat to seat and was eyed by the curious spectators. She hung around her father's chair most of the time, climbing into his lap, playing with his heavy gold chain, or taking his pencil. Her petite and pretty childish face, with its bright black eyes, was now turned towards the judge, anon at the jury who held the life of her father in their hands, but she did not understand, and it is to be hoped that she never will.

L. B. IRONS.

Have lived at Benson for the past 8 years. Was in Streator Sunday, October 11. Saw West that evening. John West was with me. On going out the entrance to the Plumb House saw him standing near by. Asked him why he shot Parks, and was he drunk or crazy when he did it. He said that if he had taken a second thought he would not have done it for all the world. On the cross-examination by Duncan he stated that he worked for Parks since Dec. 19, 1884. In answer to the question as to whether or not he was acquainted with Parks' handwriting the witness evidently "smelt a mice" and would not permit himself to swear positively, although he had seen Parks' handwriting very frequently, as he admitted. He was disposed of in short metre.

DR. MINOR.

The most important witness for the prosecution, Dr. Minor, was now called. The taking of his testimony occupied the attention of the court from 10:30 until 2:30. It may be well to preface this expert evidence by stating that it knocked the reporters completely out of time, and only at disjointed intervals could they "catch on." Walter, however, looked wise and pretended to be taking it all down. It is no to be wondered at, however, that they were lost in a labyrinthian maze of medical terms fired from Duncan's battery, which evennonplussed Dr. Minor and caused Dr. Chalfant to capitulate unconditionally. Dr. Minor took the stand and dropped in into his seat gracefully, showing his white teeth, which he is fond of displaying. Said his name was E. G. Minor. Lived in Streator 11 years. Came there from Eureka, Ill. Am a physician and surgeon. Graduated at the University of Michigan, June 28, 1883, where he studied three years, and under Dr. Finley two years. Was assistant demonstrator of anatomy two years in the Michigan University. Was called upon to attend Parks. Found a wound a little below the middle of the middle thread. The ball entered the thigh from the inside. Remained with him all night. West came there about 9 o'clock that evening. He stayed about fifteen minutes. By Duncan: Saw West two or three times that night. Parks died from the effects of a gun shot wound. Was the first physician called. Was not the physician in real charge. Drs. Smith, Head, Slope, Boner and Chalfant claimed the responsibility with me and were equally responsible. They selected me to perform the operation. Parks said that if there was any cutting to be done that I should do it. There has been no controversy to my face regarding the treatment of the case. At the amputation Drs. Smith, Boner, Chalfant and Taylor were present. Prepared no questions to be submitted to other doctors regarding the line of testimony to be sworn to before the coroner's inquest. May have told Dr. Boner and told him that Dr. Chalfant wanted to see him, but did not know of any arrangement as to what was to be sworn. Operated on Parks Oct. 18. There was but very little bleeding. Don't know whether it was a vein or artery I ligated. Made the ligation in the middle of the bullet wound. There were other vessels injured by the bullet along with the femoral artery. (Here a recess of five minutes was taken.) After the first ligation, cleaned the wound. Made another operation nine days after. At the time of the first ligation made no attempt to ligate the injured vessel. The second operation was a continuation of the first, cutting up wards. Drs. Smith and Boner did not say that the vessel ligated was a vein, and not an artery. Dr. Smith, at the same ligation, placed his finger on the vessel and said it was the femoral artery, and that there was pulsation. After the operation I expressed a doubt that I had ligated the femoral artery. Don't know whether I tied a vein or an artery. Will not swear positively whether I tied the femoral vein or the femoral artery. On the occasion of the second operation I told Dr. Boner that I was afraid the cut gut ligation had slipped. Performed the third operation Oct. 29. Will not swear that the vessel I ligated at the third operation was the same as that ligated at the second. The patient was placed under the influence of anaesthetics at each operation. Had some experience in surgery since I came to Streator. Practised on cadavers at the University. The re-direct examination of the witness was continued in the afternoon, State's Attorney Moloney taking Dr. Minor in tow. Was called to attend Parks Oct. 9. The wound was not bleeding Oct. 9. The wound was with my finger. There was no hemorrhage. The limb was swollen to double its size. Treated the wound with an application of cold water. Dr. Chalfant and Dr. Smith were present at both examinations. There was in attendance a physician with Parks all the time. (Dr. Minor said that the anatomy of the leg at his tongue's end, but when Duncan abruptly led him into the region of the liver, and questioned his witness closely, the doctor quailed under the attorney's scalpel, as he plied it right and left. The result of Duncan's cross-examination on the subject was that Dr. Minor did not know the difference between the hepatic and portal veins of the liver. Here the witness gave a history of the past operations, stating that there was no hemorrhage until after nine days. He went along answering self-propounded questions until Bull took the floor and objected. Mayo replied. Bull talked back. The court took a hand in. Duncan had his say, and after some time quiet was again restored.) There was no objection to my treatment of the patient except that one of the attending physicians wanted warm water over the second wound cold water used. Ligated the first, an time about three weeks after a short distance at the third operation. Did not reduce above that of the second. Concerning the matter writing any questions any doctor to agree as to and did not request any doctor to agree as to testimony to be given before the coroner jury. The witness was here asked by Duncan if he had talked to the prosecuting attorney during the dinner hour, and answered that he had. Said Duncan: "Did you go to see Parks and get a definite answer. He went, and returning told me that his client was not feeling well enough to talk on the subject, but that on the next day he would